

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Construction of Kangdong Airfield

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1. The Kangdong (江東) airfield at Hanyang-ni (江陽里, 39-05), Kangdong-mun, Kangdong County, South Pyongan Province, was begun before the outbreak of the Korean War and 90 percent completed by the middle of October 1950. It was abandoned by the North Koreans as they retreated and almost completely destroyed by United Nations airplane attacks in December 1950.
2. In late January 1951, the North Koreans began work on the field again. Work progressed smoothly without a single air attack by United Nations planes. Continuing on this schedule, the North Koreans hoped to complete the field by the end of April.
3. Labor was obtained by the mobilization of every able-bodied person in Sangchon (江東里, 39-05) and Kangdong Counties. Each person was required to put in 15 days' work. Persons in charge of labor were appointed for each county and township (myon). The township was the basic unit for labor gangs, with a three-man at the head of each gang. Laborers rosted in the mountains and villages during the day and worked throughout the night, beginning at 5:00 p.m. After each day of work the laborer was issued a slip, and when he had collected 15 slips, he was given a service completion certificate and permitted to return home. The Korean Air Force officers were dispatched to direct the entire project.
4. Laborers stated that they were forced to work under threat of death. Seventy percent of the workers were women, and the majority of them did not have adequate food. Their greatest worry was fear bombing attacks at night while they were working.
5. Ferry hangars, each 20 yards square, were constructed and surrounded with three layers of earth-filled bags in double rows. The runway of the field is about 1.2 miles long and runs from southwest to northeast. The field itself is elliptical in shape with the longest diameter about 1,000 yards and the shortest diameter about 800 yards.

Encl: 1 plan of Kangdong Airfield

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